

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 32 as follows:**

In detail, in the load distribution system, each node calculates an average usage rate of each link connected to the node, and periodically carries out a flooding process to all the nodes in the load distribution system, in order to recognize a current load on the traffic. The transmission node 20 calculates an effective load on each LSP based on the average usage rate of each link of all the nodes received by the flooding. The As illustrated in FIG. 4, the transmission node 20, then, moves the traffic by each micro flow so that the effective loads on all the LSPs become the same value, thereby averaging the loads on the LSPs. The micro flow is a flow used between end users. On the other hand, as illustrated in FIG. 3, an aggregate flow is an aggregation of micro flows having a common destination.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 33 as follows:**

FIG. 29 is a flowchart showing the failure-notification receiving process carried out by the load-balancing node. A node initially receives a failure notification from a node located on the downstream side in an area. At a step S60 shown in FIG. 29, the node decides whether the node is a load-balancing node. If it is determined at the step S60 that the node is not the load-balancing node, the node at step S70 forwards the failure notification to a node located on the upstream side on the packet forwarding path. On the other hand, if it is determined at the step S60 that the node is the load-balancing node, the node proceeds to a step S62. At the step S62, the failure-notification receiving unit 40

(60) of the node determines whether the traffic flowing through the failed route can be redistributed to all the routes other than the failed route, by using a usage rate of each LSP collected during the load-balancing process.